

501.38112X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): H. SUTOU, et al

Serial No.: 09/492,079

Filed: January 27, 2000

For: DATA TRANSFER METHOD, APPARATUS, AND RECORDING
MEDIUM FOR USE IN HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM

Group: 2157

Examiner: S. Wen

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 8, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e):

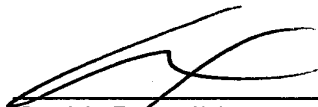
On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.38112X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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